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individual expense, and by his own personal attention, established a school where in about 120 children are educated upon the Lancastrian plan, which, in some points, Mr. Booth has indeed improved upon. Premiums of bibles and testaments were distributed at Christmas, among the most deserving of the children; all of whom are making a rapid progress in reading and writing. We have no hesitation in strongly recommending this infant establishment to the notice and patronage of the respectable inhabitants of Belfast, whose generosity, we are confident, will not leave the entire burthen of so useful an institution to be sustained by a benevolent stranger, whose unobtrusive and modest exertions, give him a double claim upon their assistance.

The above was written and inserted in the Belfast newspapers, without the previous knowledge of Mr. Booth: and it was done as a just tribute of praise to a very worthy man, consequent upon his very disinterested and benevolent exertions, and with a view to excite the *observation* and *assistance* of the inhabitants of Belfast, in aid of so *praiseworthy* an institution. I am sorry to say that both these objects have *completely failed*, owing to the unaccountable *apathy* of our townsmen, upon so interesting an occasion.

S. T.

It affords satisfaction to us to make our pages the register of the progress of the work of diffusing education. At Balitore, a village in the county of Kildare, they have lately sent a young man to Dublin to be initiated into the Lancastrian plan. He returned after a stay of two weeks, instructed in the routine, and is now superintending a daily school of 70 children.—It is to be enlarged to 100 of each sex in separate apartments with suitable monitors, classes, &c. fully organized on the new plan. The catholic priest of the parish patronizes the plan, and leaves the management to the committee, who are not of his church. The children pay: of farmers and shopkeepers 6d. per week, working tradesmen 4d. and day-labourers, 2d. This payment is likely to meet nearly all the expenses of the school, the house having been previously fitted up by subscription. We have in this instance a practical proof that much good may be effected by judicious exertion with very little expense. The plan of receiving payment may probably stimulate the parents to cause the children to give regu-

lar attendance, for sometimes what is procured without cost is not sufficiently valued.

ANTRIM INFIRMARY.

During the year from February 1810 to February 1811, the number of patients at the county of Antrim infirmary, in Lisburn, has been

Interns (of whom 15 now remain)...	74
Externs.....	825
For medical advice.....	226

BLEACHER'S PETITION.

In a former number, we gave the resolutions of a number of proprietors of bleachgreens, who assembled at Belfast. We now insert a copy of the petition with the signatures annexed, and of a circular letter sent by the committee to such members of parliament as they hoped to be able to influence to a support of the petition either from considerations of a local nature, or on the principle of public spirit. The readiness, with which the petition was signed, with very few exceptions, shows the prevalence of more humane and enlightened sentiments. It is pleasing to contrast the general concurrence evinced on the present occasion, with the prejudices of former times, and to hail the progress of a liberal and enlightened philanthropy.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE AND HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The petition of the proprietors of Bleach-greens in the north of Ireland.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

That your petitioners' property is much exposed while lying out at bleach; and great depredations are annually committed on your petitioners.

That the laws which punish the offence with death, have been found ineffectual to restrain these depredations; for that owing to the lenity of prosecutors, the unwillingness of juries to convict, and the general leaning to the side of mercy, when the punishment is by the common opinion of mankind considered as disproportioned to the offence, very few convictions take place, and in consequence offenders mostly escape, and are encouraged in the commission of crimes, which are multiplied from the probability of escape being increased, and from the impunity which lax prosecutions afford.

That petitioners are strongly impressed with the sentiment that by certainty of punishment being substituted for severity of punishment, crimes would be diminish-

ed, and your petitioners' property better secured: they therefore humbly pray, that parliament may in its wisdom alter the punishment of death, in case of robbing bleach-greens, into transportation for life,

or such a period of confinement in penitentiary houses as to them may appear eligible; provided a system of confinement in such houses should hereafter be adopted by the legislature.

Robert Jaffray Nicholson
John Brown
Thomas Loyd
Hugh Owens
Curtis Hemphill
Sam. Caldwell
Wm. Gregg
Hamill Smyth and Co.
Robt. Kyle
Josiah Bryan
Henry Orr
John Ogilby
Alex. Alexander
Jas. and Michael Ross
John A. Smyth
John Stephenson
Wm. Hunter
James N. Richardson
Lesley Alexander
John Alexander
John Ross
Carey, McClellan & Co.
James Alexander
Alex. Ogilby
Lesley Ogilby and Co.
Wm. Moody
Wm. P. Lind
Robt. McCrea
Robt. Conn
H. McClintock
John Stewart
Samuel Lyle
James Wilson
Alex. Boyle
Andrew Orr
James Barklie
Thos. Eyre Powel
John Forbes
Wm. Spear
Samuel Nelson
John Jackson, and Son
*Cornelius Duffy
*John Orr
*Edwd. Ryan
*William Helton
*John R. Clarke
*William Clarke
*John Bewley
*Lau. Waldron
*Jordan Fox
*John Anderson

John Greer
Jackson, Eyre and Co.
Jonathan Hogg
Adam McBryde
Edward Shaw
Wm. Greer
Alex. Stewart
Jonathan Pike
Wm. Doyle
Samuel McDonnell
John Hunter, jun.
Robt. Atkinson
James Kidd, jun.
William Welton
Thomas Greer
Coss Waddel
James Ward
Pharis Martin
Samuel Kidd
John Holmes
John and Charles Hardy
Wm. Morgan
Pat. Robinson
Thos. Boardman
Pat. Ferguson
Andw. and Thos. Sloan
Alex. Clark, jun.
George Wilson
Archd. Barklie
Wm. Gihon
John and Wm. Millar
Wm. Gillilan
Jesse Millar
Sam. Cunningham
Robt. Adair Bell
Thos. Dickey
Adam Duffin
John Adam
Shaw and Fitzgerald
Alex. Brown
Birnie and Cunningham
James and Hugh Dickey
Hugh Swan
James Steen
Henry Adair
James Beck
John Wilson
John Knox
Francis Bennett and son
James Cunningham
Hugh and John Jackson

John Hancock
John McCance
Wm. Stevenson
Joseph Stevenson
John S. Ferguson
Samuel Smith
Alex. Stewart
Wm. Thompson
John Sinclair
Robert Neilson
Robert A. Johnston
Robert Williamson
Henry Bell
Alex. Williamson
James B. Ferguson
Edward Curteis
John C. Hill
Wm. Coulson
Jacob Hancock
John M. Stouppe
Wm. Archer
John Richardson
Joseph Richardson
John Younghusband
Gilbert McIlveen
David Birnie
Samuel H. Batt
John Bell
Robert Grogan
Wm. Ewing
William Pike
George Ledlie
Andw. Newton
Wm. Ramsay
James M. Christie
John Wynn
Edw. C. Clibborn
Thos. Stott
George Greer
Robt. Girvin
James Christy
Wm. Dawson
Robert Newsom
Geo. Darley
Joseph Law
James Foot
Wm. Hayes, jun.
Geo. Crawford
Walter Crawford
James Upchurch
John Hanna

Those marked (*) are calico printers in the vicinity of Dublin. The insertion of the names manifests how generally the petition has been signed.

The following Circular Letter has been forwarded to many Members of Parliament.

"The committee to whom the care of forwarding the petition was intrusted, beg leave to present a copy of the resolutions and petition to ***** and to beg the favour of his support to the petition, and to the bill which may be brought into parliament in consequence of the prayer of the petition. They have great satisfaction in stating, that the petition has been generally signed by the proprietors of bleach-greens and calico print-yards, and they hope that so full a concurrence of those, whose interests are so immediately concerned, will have great weight in inducing the legislature to comply with their request for the mitigation of punishment, a measure they conceive equally demanded on the principles of humanity, and by a sound policy as best calculated to protect property, and diminish the number of crimes."

The list of signatures would have been longer if there had been time to offer the petition to all, but time pressed and prevented a full application.

It may not perhaps be known to many of our readers, that the law which made the robbing of bleach-greens, a capital felony, and enacted the punishment of death is not of a very old date. It is contained in the 3d George III. chap. 34, being the first great linen act, which with the concurrence of the linen-drappers of Belfast and Lisburn, was carried through parliament in 1763, by the old Earl of Hillsborough, afterwards created Marquis of Downshire. The 77th section takes away the benefit of clergy "from any felon convicted according to the due course of law, and statutes of this kingdom, of stealing linen, hempen, or cotton yarn or linen or hempen cloth, or cloth made of linen and cotton yarn, or any materials or utensils used in bleaching the same above the value of five shillings from any bleach-yard, buck-house or work-house thereunto belonging, whether the fact be committed by day or by night."

In the petition for the repeal of this law, there is a favourable concurrence and co-operation by the persons interested, which cannot readily be procured in other cases, for in this instance the parties interested have a better opportunity of acting in concert, than in many other cases, where those concerned are more dispersed, and have little opportunity of expressing a

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united judgment. But in this case the almost unanimous voice of those who are exclusively interested, is in favour of a more lenient mode of punishment: a circumstance, which it is hoped the legislature will not overlook. Sir Samuel Romilly demonstrates by his conduct that he is hearty in the cause; such conduct will insure to him, the best rewards, the approbation of his own mind, and entitle him to the veneration and respect of the enlightened among his fellow-citizens in the present times, as well as hand down his name to posterity as the friend to man, when the party feuds of the day shall be forgotten, or remembered with disgust. By his judicious exertions in the cause of humanity, he is laying the foundations of a well-earned and lasting fame, as an enlightened statesman and able senator.

It is pleasing to perceive the progress of a humane principle on the subject of capital punishments. At a meeting of the master calico printers in the vicinity of London, resolutions and a petition to Parliament, praying for a change of punishment for robbing print-yards, similar to those from this country, were agreed to with only one dissentient voice. The petition, it is expected, will be presented this week, as also the one from Ireland, which was transmitted to Sir Samuel Romilly last week.

On a copy of the calico printers' resolutions and petition being presented to Sir Samuel Romilly, he returned the following appropriate answer, characteristic of his benevolence and sound judgment.

Lincoln's Inn, Feb. 13, 1811.

SIR,—I have received your letter, inclosing the resolutions come to at a meeting of the master calico printers in the vicinity of London, held on the 9th of the present month; and I shall have very great satisfaction in presenting their petition to the house of Commons, and in promoting the object of it, to the utmost of my abilities. The Irish petition has not yet been transmitted to me, but I am in daily expectation of receiving it, and I am very desirous of presenting it early. The thanks which the meeting has done me the honour to give me, have afforded me very great satisfaction, for though I cannot pretend to any greater merit than that of merely doing my duty, by endeavouring to avail myself of such means as I possess of being

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useful to mankind, yet I am not indifferent or insensible to the approbation or applause of those who take a lively interest in the well-being of their fellow creatures.

I am, &c. SAMUEL ROMILLY.
*Thomas Foster, esq. Bromley Hall,
 near Bow, Middlesex.*

BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

To make our readers more fully acquainted with the present state of the Academical Institution in this town, we give the following interesting papers on that subject. Sensible of the importance of education to all ranks, and ardently desirous that effectual measures might be taken to promote its benefits, we call the attention of our readers to the important subject, and with most hearty good will to the proposed Institution, we venture to express our wish, that in no part of the buildings or management, substantial use may be sacrificed to show; or that to gain patronage or additional aids, the important interests of an independent institution may not be bartered at the shrine of power.

The Visitors, having summoned a general meeting of the Proprietors of the ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION, to take into their consideration a question which appears to them of vital importance to the success, and even the existence of their attempt to improve the state of Education in this part of the Kingdom, think it necessary to lay before them the following documents, in order that they may have the necessary information for coming to a decision.

The management of the affairs of the Institution had been vested in the Board of Managers, by a general meeting of Proprietors, held on the 4th of February, 1808, with instructions to proceed according to the recommendation of the Committee, with whom the plan was first digested and acted upon, by increasing the subscriptions, and making the necessary preparations for opening schools and delivering courses of Lectures. For some time it was doubtful whether the latter of these objects could be best effected by making a commencement in temporary buildings, or postponing it until suitable buildings should be erected. The latter of these was preferred by the concurrent decisions of several general meetings, and nothing now remained but to carry the wishes of the proprietors into effect, by increasing the subscriptions, and making

the necessary arrangements for building. The total of the subscriptions at this time amounted to upwards of £15,000, and it appeared from the instructions given to the Architect chosen to draw a plan for the buildings, that £10,000 was to be laid out in their erection, leaving a remainder of £5000 for all the other purposes of the Institution. In this arrangement the Board of Visitors acquiesced for some time under the idea that the Managers, seeing how inadequate such a portion of the funds would be to create, what must be called the soul of a literary institution, (the endowment of Professors and Teachers, the purchase and formation of a Botanical Garden, the furnishing of a Library, and the providing apparatus for the several professors) would see the necessity of exerting themselves in increasing the funds. At length, however, fearing, from the inactivity of the Managers, that these observations had escaped their notice, they thought it necessary on the 5th of September, 1808, to send them the following message...

"It is proposed to the Board of Managers, that for getting in the instalments already due, and collecting additional subscriptions, a Committee be appointed at every weekly meeting of the Managers, consisting of two persons who shall be required to use their endeavours for this purpose during the interval, and report at the next weekly board. To obviate any objections that may be urged against them...the Collectors, in performing this duty, they shall be furnished with a short and perspicuous statement of the Institution, its funds, the views entertained respecting it, and the sum necessary to give it full effect; suppose £10,000 for buildings, and £20,000 for professorships, &c. and candidly informing individuals that without their co-operation, this great national undertaking must even now fall, or degenerate into a common school, and become a reproach to the country."

An answer was sent, intimating, that such a committee as had been recommended was appointed; "but that the Managers thought it imprudent to press the collection of new subscriptions through the country, until some progress has been made in the buildings; that this was delayed for want of a plan, but that every exertion in their power was made to forward it."